



"Women Across Cultures: Surviving and Thriving In An Uncertain World" Sunday, March 3 - Saturday, March 9, 2002

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# EXHIBITS AND EVENTS EXPLORE WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS DURING LOWELL WOMEN'S WEEK

# **MARCH 3–9, 2002**

(Lowell, MA) A wide array of exhibits and programs are planned for Lowell Women's Week 2002 taking place from Sunday, March 3rd through Saturday, March 9th, 2002 (see attached list). This year's events explore the ways in which women across cultures are able to both survive and thrive in a world that is increasingly uncertain and constantly changing.

Our celebration takes place during March, proclaimed by a joint resolution of Congress in 1987 as Women's History Month. This month-long observance grew out of Women's History Week, initiated in 1978 by the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women and enacted in 1981 by a Joint Congressional Resolution. At the center of the celebration is International Women's Day, celebrated worldwide on March 8th.

All Women's Week events are free, unless otherwise noted. Women's Week events are open to all! Call (978) 970-5000 for more information/directions to all events.

# **Special Initiatives**

# STEPPING INTO AN UNCERTAIN WORLD Public Art Project

See an innovative exhibition of art created by Greater Lowell women using shoes to explore women's lives. Sponsored by Lowell Women's Week Committee.

Boott Gallery, Boott Cotton Mills Museum, 400 Foot of John St.

#### Because of Her . . . Awards

Lowell Women's Week will recognize women who have exhibited extraordinary leadership, commitment and courage; and have significantly changed the lives of others through kindness, generosity and compassion. Motivating others to learn and grow, they often go unrecognized as they influence their communities in a positive way. Lowell Women's Week's intention is to honor accomplishments of women, past, present and future.

In the listing below, in most cases the location of the event or exhibit indicates the sponsoring organization. For programs for which that is not the case, the sponsoring organization is listed as "Sponsored by . . ."

# **Exhibits**

January 24-March 16

#### **Oxymorons: Absurdly Logical Ouilts**

Each of the 40 unusual quilts in the exhibit is based upon, and interprets, an oxymoron -- a two-word phrase of seemingly contradictory words. Museum hours are Tuesday - Saturday 10 AM - 4 PM; Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for students/senior citizens; Museum members are free. *New England Quilt Museum, 18 Shattuck St.* 

January 26-May 27

# All for One & One For All! Uniforms in Fact and Fantasy,

Come and see the many diverse ways that uniforms function in society and consider how uniforms have shaped and changed your own life.

American Textile History Museum, 491 Dutton St.

February 10-June 2

#### A Continent Away: Multiple Identities in Contemporary African Art

An opportunity to see some of the dynamic and diverse work being produced by artists born in different countries in Africa. While a few of the artists are currently living in Africa, most are living and working in the United States.

Brush Art Gallery, 256 Market St.

February 27-April 3

# The Dynamics of Forgetting: Screen Memories

An installation by Kathy Marmor, this series of work explores the act of forgetting and examines the cultural, political and personal ways in which one forgets.

University Gallery, McGauvran Student Center, UMass Lowell, 71 Wilder St.

#### ADD TWO Lowell Women's Week 2002

February 28-March 10

# Women: Struggle, Survival, and Triumph

An exhibit that explores and reflects women's experiences of struggle, survival, and triumph. *Ayer Lofts Art Gallery, 172 Middle St.* 

March 3-9

# **Portuguese Women's Art-Ware**

An exhibit of Portuguese art-ware by local Portuguese women (embroidery, needlework, crocheted, knitted, and sewn items). Sponsored by Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS). *Cambridge Portuguese Credit Union, 290 Central St.* 

# **Programs and Events**

# Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

2:00-3:00 pm

# **Burning Questions: The Charlestown Convent Fire, 1834**

What would lead a mob of Protestant arsonists to attack a Roman Catholic convent and elite girl's boarding school in civilized 19<sup>th</sup> century Boston? Nancy Lusignan Schultz, Ph.D. will discuss her awardwinning book, *Fire and Roses: The Burning of the Charlestown Convent, 1834*. Sponsored by the Parker Lecture Series.

Visitor Center, Lowell National Historical Park, 246 Market St.

2:00-5:00 pm

# Open House for "Portuguese Women's Art-Ware"

An exhibit of Portuguese art-ware by local Portuguese women (embroidery, needlework, crocheted, knitted, and sewn items). Sponsored by Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS). *Cambridge Portuguese Credit Union, 290 Central St.* 

3:00-6:00 pm

# Opening Reception for "Women: Struggle, Survival, and Triumph"

An exhibit that explores or reflects women's experiences of struggle, survival, and triumph. *Ayer Lofts Art Gallery, 172 Middle St.* 

#### **Monday March 4th**

7:30-9:30 am

#### Women's Week Breakfast

Celebrate the beginning of Women's Week with a sumptuous breakfast, an inspiring keynote speech and a tour of the exhibit. \$15/person. Sponsored by the Women's Week Committee.

American Textile History Museum, 491 Dutton St.

12:00-2:00 pm

# Women and Calcium

A free lunch sponsored by Community Teamwork's WIC program, followed by an Open House. WIC, 40 Church St. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

# **Tuesday March 5th**

12:00-1:30 pm

#### **Brown Bag Lunch Book Discussion**

Take time for yourself and enjoy a lively lunch discussion of *Love and Modern Medicine: Stories by Perri Klass*. Copies are available to borrow at the Pollard Memorial Library or for purchase at Barnes & Noble Downtown. Bring your lunch, hot & cold drinks and cookies are provided. *Pollard Memorial Library*, 401 Merrimack St.

3:00-5:00 pm

#### **5 Girls Film and Discussion**

This event includes a 50- minute version of the WGBH film "5 Girls." The film chronicles 3 years in the lives of 5 girls from diverse backgrounds and shows their resilience and intelligence in navigating the often-difficult adolescent years. A panel discussion with audience participation will follow the film presentation. Facilitated by Raquel Bauman (LHS), Meg A. Bond (UML) and Erika Lanier (UTEC) Sponsored by the Center for Women and Work at UMass Lowell. *Little Theatre, Lowell High School, 50 Fr. Morrisette Boulevard* 

5:30-7:00 pm

# **Young Women's Creative Writing**

Teen women from the United Teen Equality Center read from their personal works of poetry and prose, examining what culture and diversity mean to them. *United Teen Equality Center, 10 Kirk St.* 

7:30-10:00 pm

#### The films of Mira Nair: Salaam Bombay

Mira Nair is the award winning, Harvard graduate Indian filmmaker whose docudramas provide penetrating insight into the conflicts in the transition from one culture to another. Her American education has provided her with a multicultural perspective that extends to several cultures in transition. Palme D'or: Cannes Film Festival, Grande Lion: Venice Film Festival, Oscar Nominee Best Foreign Film: 1986. *O'Leary Library Media Center, UMass Lowell, 60 Wilder St.* 

#### Wednesday March 6th

9:00-9:50 am & 10:00-10:50 am

#### Film – Beneath the Veil

A documentary film focusing on Afghani women's lives under the Taliban by Saira Shah, a woman of Afghan descent. Sponsored by UMass Lowell Center for Diversity and Pluralism and Psychology Dept. *O'Leary Library 222, UMass Lowell, 60 Wilder St.* 

11:00 am-1:30 pm

#### African Women's Day

Join us in a celebration of African dance, a fashion show of African clothing, sumptuous food and a cultural presentation. Sponsored by the African Assistance Center.

Cafeteria, Middlesex Community College, 33 Kearney Sq.

#### ADD FOUR Lowell Women's Week 2002

3:00-7:00 pm

# Reception for "The Dynamics of Forgetting: Screen Memories"

An Installation by Kathy Marmor.

*University Gallery, McGauvran Student Center, UMass Lowell, 71 Wilder St.* Slide presentation by artist at O'Leary Library 222 at 3:00 pm

5:30-7:30 pm

# **Greater Lowell Women's Network Potluck**

Lowell Women's Network will hold its monthly meeting. All are invited to come by and check out this network of women in Greater Lowell. Sponsored by the Greater Lowell Women's Network. *Brush Art Gallery & Studios*, 256 Market St.

6:30-8:00 pm

# A More Wonderful You: What Every Woman Should Know About Mastectomies and Reconstructive Surgery

Presentations by Dr. Katherine Hughes, General Surgeon, and Dr. Dina Eliopoulos, Cosmetic and Reconstruction Surgeon

Clark Auditorium, Lowell General Hospital, 295 Varnum Ave.

7:30 pm

# **Celebrating Ourselves As We Age**

The croning ritual is a revival of an ancient ritual that honors women's rite of passage into the older phase of their lives. Through valuing and honoring women, we seek to restore respect, dignity and power to women. Women of all ages are invited to participate in this spiritual experience by sharing stories about the decades of their lives and honoring women both past and present. Sponsored by Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley.

Brush Art Gallery & Studios, 256 Market St.

7:30-10:00 pm

# The films of Mira Nair: Mississippi Masala

Mira Nair is the award winning, Harvard graduate Indian filmmaker whose docudramas provide penetrating insight into the conflicts in the transition from one culture to another. Her American education has provided her with a multicultural perspective that extends to several cultures in transition. Palme D'or: Cannes Film Festival, Grande Lion: Venice Film Festival, Oscar Nominee Best Foreign Film: 1986. *O'Leary Library Media Center, UMass Lowell, 60 Wilder St.* 

# **Thursday March 7th**

8:30-11:00 am

# **Leading Women: Issues to Face in the 21st Century**

Open forum dealing with the issues faced by women in positions of authority.

Sponsored by Representative Tom Golden.

American Textile History Museum, 491 Dutton St.

#### ADD FIVE Lowell Women's Week 2002

#### 12:00-1:00 pm

# Women's Rights and Responsibilities in Islam

Join Middlesex Community College Professor Mary Lehaj in an exploration of the status of women in Islam, a system that she argues provides women with rights and responsibilities "equal though not identical, to those of man." Sponsored by MCC's One World Series.

Lower Café, Middlesex Community College, 33 Kearney Square.

# 12:30-1:30 pm

# Brown Bag Lunch and Lecture: Women's Work . . . Women's Art

Please join us for a celebration of Feminist Art. Bring your lunch; hot & cold drinks and cookies are provided.

New England Quilt Museum, 18 Shattuck St.

# 3:30-5:00 pm

# **Books for Children: A Prescription for Success**

Dr. Perri Klass, Medical Director of "Reach Out and Read" will discuss why early childhood literacy is so important and how you and medical practices can encourage and support early literacy in families with young children. Refreshments will be served.

Pollard Memorial Library, 401 Merrimack St.

#### 4:00-5:30 pm

# Lowell Women's Week: Making Room at the Table

Panel Discussion: Hear about Lowell Women's Week and discuss ways to make the week more welcoming to women and girls of diverse cultures, ages and groups. Sponsored by the Umass Lowell. *Smith Baker Center*, 400 Merrimack St.

#### 7:00-9:00 pm

# Making Democracy Work: Women and Community Change

Smith College Professor Ackelsberg will speak about her involvement in exploring the relationship between gender and citizenship. Focus will include the variety of ways people, especially women in their local communities, participate in public life and how the study of community activism might change the way we think about and understand politics and citizenship. Refreshments 6:30pm to 7:00pm, Sponsored by MCC Service Learning Program and Smith College.

Middlesex Community College, Room 302, 33 Kearney Sq.

#### 7:00-8:30 pm

# **Mother Loss Bereavement**

Join us for an informational talk about grief and the special dynamics of mourning the death of one's mother. Presented by Marie Jennings, LICSW, of VNA Hospice of Greater Lowell. Sponsored by the Visiting Nurses Association and Hospice of Greater Lowell.

Lowell General Hospital, 295 Varnum Ave.

#### 7:30-9:00 pm

#### An Evening with Author Perri Klass

Author of fiction and memoir, and a prominent Boston Pediatrician, Perri Klass will speak about her writing career. Books will be available for purchase and signing at the event. Refreshments will be served.

Pollard Memorial Library, 401 Merrimack St.

7:30-10:00 pm

# The films of Mira Nair: The Perez Family

Mira Nair is the award winning, Harvard graduate Indian filmmaker whose docudramas provide penetrating insight into the conflicts in the transition from one culture to another. Her American education has provided her with a multicultural perspective that extends to several cultures in transition. Palme D'or: Cannes Film Festival, Grande Lion: Venice Film Festival, Oscar Nominee Best Foreign Film: 1986. *O'Leary Library Media Center, UMass Lowell, 60 Wilder St.* 

# Friday March 8th

9:00-11:00 am

# **Braided Streams: Women of Faith Speak**

Please join us for a panel discussion of women representing diverse faith traditions. With panel and group discussion and resource table. Sponsored by UMass Lowell Campus Ministry and Multi-Faith Council. *O'Leary Library 222, UMass Lowell, 60 Wilder St.* 

3:00-5:00 pm

#### **International Women's Roundtable Discussion**

This event will feature women who were born in countries all over the world, but who now reside in the United States. The moderator will discuss three key questions with the participants and then open the discussion to the audience. \*Entertainment will be provided by the O'Halloran Irish Dance Troupe. Sponsored by the Center for Women and Work Work Life Integration Group, UMass Lowell. *Dove Café, St. Joseph the Worker Shrine, 31 Lee St.* 

6:00 pm

#### **Women's Week Concert**

Featuring the traditional and original folk music of Audrey Atwater and Lady Harmony. 6:00 pm Hors D'oeuvres, 7:30 pm concert. Tickets are \$10.00.

Dove Café, St. Joseph the Worker Shrine, 31 Lee St.

#### Saturday March 9th

9:00 am-3:00 pm

#### **Girls with Goals: Capture Your Confidence!**

Conference with interactive workshops and presentations focusing on self-esteem, confidence building and dynamic learning, for girls in grades 3-6. (Pre-registration with \$5.00 fee) *Greenhalge School*, 149 Ennell St.

9:30-11:00 am

# **Revisiting the First National Women's Rights Convention**

A brunch program led by Karen Moran playing the part of Abigail Rawson, a figure in the 1850 First National Women's Rights Convention in Worcester, MA. Discover which 19<sup>th</sup> century issues are still of concern in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Sponsored by the American Association of University Women. *Tsongas Industrial History Center, Boott Cotton Mills Museum, 400 Foot of John St.* 

#### ADD SEVEN Lowell Women's Week 2002

11:00 am-1:00 pm

# **Mother Daughter Luncheon**

Mothers and their daughters, ages 8 and over, are invited to join us for a Women's History Scavenger Hunt and story, followed by a catered lunch. Space is limited, please call 978-970-4122 to register. *Pollard Memorial Library*, 401 Merrimack St.

2:00-5:00 pm

#### An Afternoon of Samba

Demonstration of Samba by Swingando Afro-Brazilian Dance Group directed by Ana Carla G. Laidley followed by an opportunity for all participants to dance the Samba. Background information on the Brazilian Samba will be prepared by young Brazilian women from MAPS ACCEP Program. Sponsored by Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS).

Pollard Memorial Library, 401 Merrimack St.

#### The Vagina Monologues: V–Day 2002

UMass Lowell and Alternative House are sponsoring performances of the *Vagina Monologues*. Based on interviews with hundreds of diverse women, these monologues explore the mystery, pain, power and wisdom buried in women's experiences. This performance is part of the V-Day 2002 campaign, with proceeds benefiting Alternative House and other organizations that work to prevent violence against women.

There will be three performances: Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 8pm, Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8pm (preceded by a 7pm reception), and Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm. Suggested donations for Thursday and Sunday are \$10.00 (regular) and \$5.00 (student/limited income).

Ticket price for the reception and performance Saturday are \$20.00 (regular) and \$10.00 (student and limited income). For just the performance Saturday, ticket price is \$10.00 (regular) and \$5.00 (student/limited income). Sponsored by UMass Lowell and Alternative House. Please contact Anne Mulvey, UMass Lowell for more information at: (978) 934-4342.

#### Lowell Women's Week 2002 Planning Committee includes representatives from the following organizations:

African Assistance Center

Alternative House

American Association of University Women

American Textile History Museum

Brush Art Gallery and Studios

Community Teamwork, Inc.

Dove Cafe

Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, Inc.

Lowell Enterprise Community

Girls Incorporated of Greater Lowell Greater Lowell Women's Network

Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce

Latin American Health Institute

Lowell Community Health Center

Lowell General Hospital

Lowell National Historical Park

Lowell Small Business Assistance Center

Lowell Telecommunications Corporation

Mass. Alliance of Portuguese Speakers

Middlesex Community College

Health Services, International Student Program, Lowell Career Pathways for

Youth, Student Activities, Service

Learning

National Organization of Women

O'Halloran Irish Dancers

Pollard Memorial Library

Rape Crisis Services of Greater Lowell

Representative Tom Golden

Suit*Ability* 

United Teen Equality Center

University of Massachusetts Lowell

Campus Ministries, Center for Diversity and Pluralism, Center for Women and

Work, Psychology Department,

University Gallery

Visiting Nurse Association of Gr. Lowell